(a) the teacher-student ratio in the country, especially in Government schools;

(b) whether Government would review the ratio, to ensure more teachers for students to improve the standards of education; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the total literacy in the country would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) As per Selected Educational Statistics, a publication of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the teacher-students ratio as on 30.9.1999 in the country in Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary schools is 1:43, 1:38, 1:30 and1:34 respectively.

(b) and (c) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), funds are provided to States/UTs to meet the norm fixed in respect of teacher-students ratio i.e. one teacher for every 40 children subject to a minimum of 2 teachers per primary school and at least one teacher per class in upper primary schools. At present, there is no proposal to revise the same.

The National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims at attaining full literacy i.e. a sustainable thresholdlevel of 75% by 2005.

Controversial Transfers in NCERT

5465. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item, "NCERT transfers kick up a controversy" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 23rd April, 2002;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to cancel the transfers made, as per press reports, on extraneous considerations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per regulation 47 of the NCERT, all employees of the council are liable for transfer to any of the council's establishment anywhere in

India. NCERT has informed that these transfers are made according to the need of their services and administrative exigencies of work. There were no extraneous considerations behind the transfers under reference.

NGOs for dissemination of literature, culture and art

†5466. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of NGOs are working in the country for the dissemination and propagation of literature, culture and art;

(b) if so, the total number of such organisations by the end of March, 2002, indicating their numbers in each State; and

(c) how much amount in the form of grant is provided by Government to these organisations annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Female scientists

†5467. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate a plan to give encouragement to female scientists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of facilities provided to female scientists during the last three years; and

(d) the present number of female scientists and the fields in which they are working?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.